phases. along Indo-Bangladesh border, 2506 km. of fencing has been completed as on 31.7.2007.

(b) and (c) Shortfalls are attributable to difficulties due to presence of habitation within 150 yards from the international border, delay in land acquisition in some areas and difficult topographical conditions. The feasible length is likely to be completed by the year 2008-09.

(d) and (e) The Government has made adequate provisions for maintenance of fencing which primarily get damaged due to adverse climatic conditions, water logging, floods, etc. The Government has also decided to replace and upgrade the entire fence constructed under Phase-I along Indo-Bangladesh border with a modified design.

Survey on Indian languages

*226. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to conduct a survey on Indian languages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when such last survey was conducted and what are its statistics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (c) The First Linguistic Survey of India (LSI) was conducted by Sir George A. Grierson, an Irish philologist during 1898-1927 in the pre-independence period. The Survey results were published in 11 volumes and 19 parts establishing 544 dialects and 179 languages at that point of time. The LSI established for the first time six families of which these languages/dialects were affiliated in the undivided India. However, it (LSI) did not cover the Southern parts of India.

The classification provided by LSI has been the basis for presentation of data on mother tongues/languages returned at each of the censuses even in the post-independence India. However, the affiliation of some of the languages in the classification has undergone a change based on subsequent investigations and research.

Since LSI of Sir George A. Grierson has limitations arising out of the approach adopted then and since new tools, techniques and survey instruments for analysis and description of language have become available, the Government proposes to launch a New Linguistic Survey of India (NLSI). The NLSI project will be of 10 years duration and envisages an expenditure of more than Rs. 500 crores. For the Eleventh Plan, an expenditure of Rs. 280 crores is envisaged.

Labour rights of women workers

*227. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to ensure the labour rights of women working in the unorganised sector;

(b) whether the Ministry has any plan to protect women in unorganised sector from tbe incidents of sexual harassment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Several laws have been enacted to ensure labour rights of working women. Laws which are applicable to working women in the unorganized sector are Plantations Labour Act, 1951, the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, Minimum Wages Act, 1948, Inter-State Migrant Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996, Beedi Worker's Welfare Fund Act, 1976, Iron-Ore Mines, Manganese Ore Mines and Chrome Ore Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1976, Mines Act, 1952, Lime Stone and Dolomite Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1946 etc. These laws regulate conditions and hours of work, provide creche facilities, time off for feeding children during working hours, maternity leave and separate toilets and washing facilities for female workers near the workplace.

(b) and (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, in the case of writ petition No. 666-70 of 1992 filed by Vishaka and Ors. *Vs* State of Rajasthan and Ors. has laid down certain guidelines for the prevention of sexual harassment of women employees in their work places. The Guidelines have the force of law under Article 141 of the Constitution of India. The guidelines provide for establishment of a mechanism for redressal of complaints.

Pursuant to the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the issue was taken up with all the Central Ministries/Departments, the State Governments/Union Territories and Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) to constitute Complaints Committees and to implement the guidelines contained in the judgment in letter and spirit. Compliance reports in respect of setting up of Complaints Committees are being received from most of the Central Ministries/State Governments/ Union Territories/Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs).

The Department of Personnel and Training issued a Notification on 02.11.1997 amending the Conduct Rules applicable to the Central Government and the All India Services to the effect that sexual harassment at the work place constitutes a misconduct for which a Government Servant is liable for disciplinary action.

With a view to making the guidelines applicable to employees in the private sector, necessary amendment has been carried out on 20.11.1999 to the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946. Consequent upon this amendment, sexual harassment at the work place constitutes a misconduct for which a workman is liable for disciplinary action. Female workers in the unorganized sector can raise an industrial dispute against sexual harassment through any registered trade union. A group of women workers can also raise a dispuhte by electing 5 representatives to represent in the conciliation proceedings by a general resolution.